



OVERVIEW

University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine) has been selected as a partner campus in the White House's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge. This initiative, launched in spring 2011, invited institutions of higher education to commit to a year of interfaith and community service programming on campus.

UCI's program, **Leap of Faith**, is based on a project originally conceptualized by UC Irvine's **2011-2012 XIV Dalai Lama Scholar**, Armaan Rowther. Over the past year, UCI students, campus leadership and community partners have worked closely together to develop coursework on interfaith dialogue and community service; formulate a campus plan for interfaith dialogue, service and reflection; and create a cadre of student leaders who will sustain interfaith engagement and involvement.

On May 2, 2012, this work will be featured in a **Living Peace speaker event featuring Queen Noor of Jordan** focused on the diversity and cooperation among cultures. Living Peace, a series of conversations with international leaders committed to making the world a healthy, sustainable, and compassionate place, is a **partnership between UCI and Center for Living Peace**.

SPECIFIC GOALS

The two primary goals of Leap of Faith are:

1. Raise awareness about hunger locally and globally through a series of events: hunger banquet (April 16), day of service (April 28) and day of fasting (May 1).
2. Take action to address hunger through collaborative community service projects among various faith groups.

WHY IS INTERFAITH COOPERATION IMPORTANT?

- Need to work together to solve enormous challenges facing the world
- Need to understand that we all share some basic values:
 - Preventing harm
 - Promoting compassion
 - Helping those in harm's way
- This is a unique opportunity to find common ground among groups and individuals with different faiths

WHY FOCUS ON HUNGER?

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), hunger is the single gravest threat to the world's public health
- WHO also states that malnutrition is by far the biggest contributor to child mortality, present in half of all cases
- Six million children die of hunger every year - more than from cholera, malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS combined

UCI STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Active Minds, Ahlul Bayt Society, Alkalima, Armenian Student Association, Baha'i Club, Buddhist Association, Circle K, Cru, Flying Samaritans, Hillel, Muslim Student Union, Sikh Student Association, and Youth for Christ.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Center for Living Peace, Dalai Lama Fellows Program, Second Harvest Food Bank, Orange County Food Bank, Orange County Rescue Mission, Families Forward, the Illumination Foundation, Jewish Community Center, and Uplift. Discussions are also underway with various faith-based groups and organizations through local mosques, churches, synagogues and temples.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Center for Living Peace: www.goodhappens.org

Living Peace Series: www.livingpeace.uci.edu

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